

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to bring this case to issue without delay.

1. Acknowledgment of the priority claim in paragraph 12 of PTOL 326 is appreciated.

2. Since the restriction requirement has been made Final, claims 9-17 are withdrawn from further consideration. Applicants reserve the right to divide for these withdrawn claims.

3. Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter appearance in claim 2 which has been canceled as superfluous. Claims 3-8 have been made directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1.

Claims 1 and 3-8 remain for consideration.

4. The Abstract has been revised to reflect the method invention.

5. The title has been changed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

6. In claim 1 the "said layer" is the plastic layer for which antecedent basis is provided in lines 2 and 3.

The remaining claims have been modified as necessary to ensure proper antecedent basis.

7. The original claims have been rejected as obvious from GIANGRASSO, patent 6,126,119, taken alone or in view of BENOIT et al, patent 6,669,150.

The invention is a method of grounding a fuel or like metal tube to a vehicle chassis, where the metal tube is jacketed in a nonconducting plastic layer. For this purpose an electrically-conducting clip is used between the chassis and the metal tube. The clip itself is at least in part composed of a plastic which has been made electrically conductive.

Projections on a penetrating portion of the clip are pressed through the plastic layer into direct contact of the metal of the tube and then the plastic of the clip is welded to the plastic layer to prevent corrosion where the plastic layer is penetrated.

The GIANGRASSO reference describes a holding device for an insulated tube of an air conditioner or cooling unit, for example, the tube P of FIG. 1a which has an insulation 1 of rubber. On this insulation a jacket 12 is applied which has a groove 13 for receiving a clip.

The clip C is prevented from thermal contact with the tube P in the patent. The clip in GIANGRASSO does not serve to ground the tube and does not both ground the tube and form a weld seal with the jacket of the tube.

The BENOIT et al reference does serve to affect tubing for the cables in a vehicle utilizing a clip 16 which can be fitted into a holder 31. The reference does not deal with grounding. It will be apparent, therefore, that a combination of BENOIT et al and GIANGRASSO does not suggest to an ordinary worker in the art the structure and method recited in claims 1 and 3-8 and in particular, the method of grounding the metal tube to the chassis of the vehicle now recited.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are therefore allowable over the applied art and even the references of record which have not been applied.

An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

8. A petition for a one-month extension of the term for reply is enclosed together with a charge form for the petition fee.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: One month extension petition
Charge form for \$120